

## INTRODUCTION

The “Environmental Consequences” chapter describes the impacts of implementing each alternative. The chapter is organized by alternative, with impact topics as subtopics.

Before the presentation of impacts, there is a summary of regulations and policies that guide and limit management actions, which are listed by the impact topics. This is followed by the methods and assumptions used to assess the impacts on each topic. Then, the impacts of actions that are common to all alternatives are given, followed by the impacts of actions unique to each alternative. Conclusions and cumulative impacts statements are also discussed where appropriate. In 40 *Code of Federal Regulations* 1508.7, a “cumulative impact” is defined as the

impact on the environment which results from the incremental impact of the action when added to other past, present, and reasonably foreseeable future actions regardless of what agency (federal or nonfederal) or person undertakes such other actions. Cumulative impacts can result from individually minor but collectively significant actions taking place over a period of time. The impacts of earthquakes, tsunamis, and floods (see “Impacts on Floodplains and Estuaries”) are also discussed. These events may impact the public’s health and safety where visitor use has been enabled or encouraged by facilities called for in the alternatives in areas where these events may occur.

